

# THAKEHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



*'Small School, Big Opportunities, Great Achievements'*



Monday 16th September 2019

## Super Learning Hero Awards

**Congratulations go to the following children for their awards week commencing 2nd September, awarded in Celebration assembly on 9th September 2019:**

Positive, Persevering

Poppy

Isla H (Oak)

Co-operative, Caring

Craig

Joshua (Maple)

Sam (Elder)

Curious, Questioning

Quinn

Reflective, Reviewing

Ruby

**Congratulations go to the following children for their awards week commencing 9th September, awarded in Celebration assembly on 16th September 2019:**

Positive, Persevering

Poppy

Jessica (Oak)

Aria (Oak)

Toby (Elder)

Co-operative, Caring

Craig

Kevin (Oak)

Curious, Questioning

Quinn

Reflective, Reviewing

Ruby

Oliver (Maple)

## **Time to Shine!**



**Congratulations to Harriet for achieving STARS Netball 'Player of the Week', Beth for her pickleball and tennis success during the holidays, achieving 'Player of the Week' in her Rugby club and scaling the dizzy heights at Treetop in Crawley and Poppy and Maddie for their confidence and success with their drama/singing auditions. Emma Rose has wowed us all by gaining a part in Youth Theatre performance of Annie.**



**Hard work and practice are clearly paying off for our Thakeham children, well done!**

## Message from Mrs Norton

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back everyone! The children have returned to school after the summer break in positive spirits and showing a great attitude to their learning.

We're delighted to welcome Isla (Oak Class), Ben (Maple Class) and Harriet (Elder Class) to our school and of course our wonderful new Acorn Class children who are also settling in very nicely. We have been very pleased with the buddies and their 'Co-operative, Caring Craig' attitudes, helping the new children to learn the ropes. I am sure you will extend new families to our school, a very warm Thakeham welcome. At the beginning of the year it is always helpful to share a few reminders, especially for new families joining us, which are outlined below.

### **Morning Times**

A reminder that the playground is open in the mornings from 8:30am. Children line up and go in at 8:45am. In addition to our Literacy lessons we are having a particular focus on spelling between 8:45-9:00am with children engaged in learning as soon as they step into the classroom. Across the week this is an additional 11/2 hours of spelling practice, so it is important that your child arrives at school on time in the mornings. Parents must supervise their children on the playground until 8:45am. Only if your child is in Year 6 can they be unaccompanied on the playground between 8:30-8:45am.

As mentioned in my initial welcome back letter, we are encouraging children in Year 1 to 6 to line up on the playground independently. Please support us in this by saying good bye to your child and allowing them to line up independently. You can of course step forward to speak to the class teacher if you need to pass on a quick message. If you need to speak with them in greater depth please make an appointment via the office.

### Returning paperwork to the office

Just a reminder to please encourage your child to return any letters or consent forms etc via the classroom staff. This is to ensure that, as parents, you avoid queuing up in the mornings at the school office. We try to promote a little independence by encouraging the children to check their book bags daily and give forms/letters etc to the classroom staff, who in turn send them to the office for you. Obviously, if you need to speak to us directly then you are always welcome to come to the office and we will be happy to help.

### Parking

We are in a fortunate position to offer car parking on site for our parents, visitors and staff. The car park alongside the playground does fill up very quickly but we would like to remind you there are plenty of parking spaces available in the car park at the rear of Steyning Grammar School, next door to us. **Please only use allocated spaces in both car parks and do not block gates as access is needed at all times.** The coach bays are busy at the start and end of the day and should only be used by Year 6 parents dropping off and picking up, not as car park spaces as access is needed by coaches for Steyning Grammar School. Please help us to keep the children safe on our site by parking sensibly and safely.

Steyning Grammar School close and lock their gates at 9:00am so please be prompt in returning to your car at drop off.

### Bikes and Scooters

We're delighted that children are cycling/scooting to school and encourage the children to wear cycle helmets to keep them safe. Children should dismount when they reach the school path to prevent incidents with pedestrians walking to school. We are planning on using money through FOTS fundraising to purchase bike/scooter racks this year so watch this space!

### School Uniform and Jewellery

Children have returned to school looking very smart this autumn—thank you for your support with this. Our uniform consists of

- White /royal blue polo shirt or blouse, with or without the school logo.
- Royal blue jumper or cardigan with or without the school logo
- Plain grey trousers, smart shorts or skirts (jogging pants, sports shorts and leggings are not acceptable)
- Royal blue and white small-checked summer dress
- Grey/white socks
- Sensible black shoes (not trainers, canvas shoes or boots)

For P.E. children should have the following kit in a P.E. bag clearly marked with the child's name.

- Royal blue shorts
- White crew neck T-shirt (with or without logo)
- Plimsolls or trainers

Additional items :

- Book bags
- PE bags
- Water bottles

Most of the uniform can be purchased from local stores and items with a school logo can be obtained from: [info@abcembroidery.co.uk](mailto:info@abcembroidery.co.uk). One of the most important things we ask parents to do when their child starts school is to **PLEASE LABEL EVERYTHING!**

Jewellery - **Small stud style earrings which need to be removed for PE/Sports activities.** It is essential this is adhered to for health and safety reasons. **Please note hoops or dropper earrings are not permitted and we will ask your child to remove them if worn to school, for safety reasons.** We recommend that if you are planning on having your child's ears pierced that this takes place during the summer holiday to allow for the 4-6 week healing period.

Long hair should be tied back for PE/Sports activities and cooking.

## Absence from School

Please note there are strict regulations in place regarding pupils' absence from school which can be seen in detail in our Attendance Policy available on our website. Pupils are **only** in school for 190 days each year.

**There are 175 other days for holidays and other activities.**

80% attendance represents **1 day off a week.**

90% attendance represents **1 day off per fortnight.**

All schools are expected to achieve an overall rate of **95% or above** attendance. Our School target is 96%.

The DfE regard attendance below 90% as 'persistent absence.'

It is natural your child will be unwell from time to time and in such circumstances, please inform the school office first thing in the morning. It is our policy to contact parents directly if we haven't heard from you, for safeguarding reasons.

We are not permitted to authorise absence due to holiday. Requests for absence should be made on the form available from the office. Parents/carers should be aware that STARS Network of Schools will follow the West Sussex County Council guidelines on issuing Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) and unauthorised absence of 10 sessions or more (each half day counts as one session) which could result in the issuing of a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) by the County Pupil Entitlement: Investigation team.. **On DfE guidance, any unauthorised holidays of five consecutive days or more will be referred to the County resulting in the issuing of a FPN.**

A Fixed Penalty Notice gives the parents/carers the opportunity to discharge themselves of their legal responsibility if a £120 fine is paid (per adult with parental responsibility for each child) within 28 days or £60 if paid within 21 days of the date the Notice was issued. Failure to pay the FPN may result in a prosecution under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996.

Attendance during statutory testing is essential and absence during these periods should be avoided unless your child is unwell. Dates for testing is as follows:

Year 1 Phonics Screening: 8-12th June 2020

Year 2 SATS: Anytime during the period May 4th-22nd 2020

Year 4 Multiplication Tables Test: Anytime during the period 8th -25th June 2020

Year 6 SATs: 11th-14th May 2020

## Curriculum Information Meetings

We hope you managed to attend your child's meeting last week with key information provided for the year ahead. Please note the class Curriculum Information Letters have been emailed out and are also available on the school website.

## Parent Helpers in School

We are delighted with the response to our free for helpers to hear readers and support the children. Thank you to all those who attended child protection and safeguarding training last Friday. We will be in touch shortly to arrange your induction and training. Our focus is now to ensure these adults are settled in well and comfortable with their role and help to enrich our children's reading diet and experiences. If you had been considering volunteering with us, we will run another round of 'recruitment' in the spring term.

## Child Protection and Safeguarding

In line with DfE regulations, every school must have a Designated Safeguarding Leader and a Deputy Safeguarding Leader. At Thakeham I am the DSL and Mrs Hopkins is the Deputy DSL. Everyone who works in any capacity in school alongside side on a regular basis must have a Police check (DBS) and attend safeguarding training at least annually. It is everyone's responsibility to report any safeguarding concerns to myself or Mrs Hopkins and for us to follow up on these in accordance with the WSCC Threshold continuum. We will always discuss any concerns or queries with you (unless doing so would place the child in further danger).

At different times within a child's journey through the school, a family may need support on a wide range of issues from routines at home to changes in family circumstances—we are here to help, so please do talk to us if there is anything we can help with or need to be aware of. Sometimes doing so and accessing support can help stop a situation becoming more challenging for children and families.

Best Wishes,

Mrs Norton

## Stunning Starts

### Oak Class

In Oak class our Stunning Start for our castles topic began with us all creating our very own castles out of cardboard. We included features such as a keep, drawbridge and arrow slits. We are really looking forward to visiting a real castle this Friday in Arundel.



### Maple Class



As a stunning start to our topic, Maple Class found out about the monstrous Headteacher that is Miss Trunchbull. We listened to Roald Dahl describe the vile character and watched her force an initially unwilling Bruce Bogtrotter to eat an entire chocolate cake. We challenged ourselves to make an even bigger cake, with each group making one layer which would eventually tower up to create a six layered chocolate cake covered with chocolate icing. We of course then sampled our hard work at the end of the day!!



### Elder Class

We had a fabulous afternoon studying our differences in our 'Genetic Diversity' workshop. We considered how snails, which all looked the same, had varying differences. We then related this to ourselves and how we are the same yet different for example, eye colour, who can roll their tongue or which hand do you write with. We did taste tests and after taking our finger prints, used the microscopes to look at how different they each were.



## Open Events for Prospective Reception (EYFS) Parents September 2020

If you are considering a place with us for your child in Reception class September 2020, please see below for details of Open Events which you are warmly invited to :

27<sup>th</sup> Sept 1:30-2:15pm

3<sup>rd</sup> Oct 6:15-7:00pm

10<sup>th</sup> Oct 10:45-11:30am

13<sup>th</sup> Nov 9:30-10:15am

The sessions will last around 45 minutes and will offer an opportunity for you to tour the school, meet myself and key staff and find out what life is like at Thakeham Primary School. Please book via the school office on 01903 740176 or [office@thakehamps.co.uk](mailto:office@thakehamps.co.uk)



Friends of Thakeham School presents....



# THE ALTERNATIVE CHARITY RACE NIGHT



*All proceeds towards equipment for Thakeham primary school*

**FRIDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 7:30 PM  
IN THE SCHOOL HALL**

**Tickets £10pp including food – ADVANCED TICKET SALES ONLY**

Tickets & sponsorship forms available from  
FoTS class reps or the school office

**JOCKEY & HORSE OWNERSHIP, PRIZES,  
LICENSED CASH BAR**

REGISTERED CHARITY NO.1183559

